

39. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of formatting the information into a map for display to a user of the port, the map showing the items of interest relative to the location.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the step of communicating the location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity specifying a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the location, and wherein the step of formatting the information into a map comprises the step of displaying the vicinity and the items of interest within the vicinity.

41. A method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of specifying, at the port, a shape of the geographic extent and of displaying the map in the specified shape.

42. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the location and the category comprises the step of generating a request signal to the database.

43. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the location and the category comprises the step of utilizing a communication link selected from the group consisting of: a telephone link, a satellite link, a radio-frequency link, an infra-red link, an internet link, a facsimile link, a fiber-optic link, a coaxial cable link, a cellular network, a microwave link, an interactive TV communication link, an airphone link, a modem link, and a television link.

Sub
C1

44. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of generating, at the database, the information, the step of generating comprising utilizing one of a personal computer, a mainframe, a work-station, a mini-computer, and a digital data processor.

45. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity specifying a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the location.

46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the step of communicating comprises the step of utilizing one of the following communication links: a television, a telephone, a facsimile, an audible speaker, and a display.

47. A method according to claim 38, wherein the steps of specifying comprises utilizing a user interface selected from the group of television interface, facsimile interface, keyboard, mouse and computer interface.

48. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of generating the information at the database, the information including street and landmark information.

49. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of specifying the location comprises the step of utilizing a GPS receiver to specify a location of the user of the port.

Sub
C1

50. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of requesting, at the port, additional detail about at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising the step of transmitting, from the database, the additional detail.

51. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of transmitting additional detail comprises transmitting multimedia information including at least one of video, prerecorded music, advertising information, and digital pictures.

52. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of communicating advertising information to users of the port in response to the database receiving the category.

53. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of arranging the information hierarchically within the database.

54. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of specifying one or more additional categories at the port, of communicating the additional categories to the database, and receiving, at the port, additional information defining geographic coordinates of items of interest in the additional categories.

55. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of specifying the location comprises the step of utilizing a current location of the user of the port as the location.

56. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database, from time to time, so as to maintain current information within the database.

57. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information on a display for a user of the port, the display being selected from one of the following: CRT, LCD, LED array, and mixtures thereof.

58. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the information comprises the step of utilizing one of a facsimile, a printer, and a voice communication synthesizer.

59. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of providing, at the port, a menu of categories wherein a user of the port can specify the category.

60. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of providing, at the port, a menu of locations wherein a user of the port can specify the location.

61. A method according to claim 60, further comprising the step of providing a location in a first mode corresponding to a current location of the user, and of providing a location in a second mode corresponding to a remote location relative to the user.

Sub
C1

62. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information within a map of at least a portion of one of the following: a country, a state, and a city.
63. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of prompting a user at the port for additional information in response to a category request that identifies a number of the items of interest.
64. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of specifying the category comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the category into the port.
65. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of specifying the category comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the category into the port.
66. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving comprises utilizing a voice generation system to describe items of interest to a user of the port.
67. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database from the port so as to maintain current information within the database.

B2

68. A method of collating geo-defined data for specifying items of interest relative to a user's location, comprising the steps of:

determining the location of the user, the location defining the user geographically within a geographic vicinity;

providing a port with a user interface;

specifying, through the port, the location and at least one category to a remote database connected via a communication link to the port, the communications link being selected from the group of a telephone link, a satellite link, a radio-frequency link, an infra-red link, an Internet link, a facsimile link, a fiber-optic link, a coaxial cable link, a cellular network, a microwave link, an interactive TV communication link, an airphone link, a modem link, a television link, and mixtures thereof; and

providing information through the link and the port to the user, the information geographically defining the items of interest relative to the location of the user.

69. A method according to claim 68, wherein the step of determining the location comprises utilizing a GPS receiver.

03 sub cl 70. Database methodology for providing geo-defined information to a user remotely connected to a database, comprising the steps of:

Sub
c1 receiving, at the database, information including a category of items of interest and positional coordinates of a location defining a vicinity;

determining items of interest that are within the category and that are located within the vicinity;

transmitting identifying information about the items of information to the user, the identifying information specifying the items of interest with a name and a geographic location relative to the positional coordinates.

Sub
c1 71. Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the steps of displaying the vicinity as a map and displaying the identifying information on the map.

72. Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the step of transmitting the positional coordinates and the location through a port connected to the database, the port having a user interface which permits entry of information by the user.

73. Database methodology according to claim 70, wherein the step of receiving comprises the step of utilizing one or more of a modem and a fax machine.

Sub
c1 74. Database methodology according to claim 73, wherein the step of receiving comprises the step of utilizing a session manager for responding to requests at the

Solu
01

database and for forwarding data requests and other information to servers connected with the database.